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THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

First Named Inventor: Kenji Suzuki      Group Art Unit: 2123

Application No.: 09/273,256      Examiner: Dwin M. Craig

Filed: 03/22/1999      Docket No.: PMS-258709

**Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR AIDING PROGRAMMING**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**DECLARATION UNDER 37 CFR § 1.131**

Dear Sir:

As a below named inventor for the above-identified US patent application, I hereby declare that:

1. I am a citizen of Japan and my residence is as stated as next to my name.
2. I am able to understand written English.
3. I am employed by Yamazaki Mazak Kabushiki Kaisha, hereinafter "Mazak," a corporation organized under the laws of Japan, having a principal place of business at 1, Aza-Norifune, Ohaza-Oguchi, Ohguchi-cho, Niwa-gun, Aichi-ken 480-0197 Japan.
4. Within the normal scope of my duties at Mazak, I jointly invented the subject matter disclosed and claimed in the above-identified US patent application.
5. I jointly conceived of the subject matter disclosed and claimed in the

above-identified US application at least as early as October 8, 1997.

Attached hereto as Exhibit A is a true and correct copy of a communication that I jointly assisted with the preparation of, and which was sent to a Japanese patent firm, disclosing information for preparation of a Japanese patent application corresponding to the subject matter disclosed and claimed in the above-identified US application. As can be seen from the document, the communication is dated October 8, 1997 on the pages following the first page of Exhibit A.

6. Attached hereto as Exhibit B, is a copy of a translation into English of the document in Exhibit A.

7. Based upon the information in the facsimile and other information that I jointly supplied with the co-inventors, the patent firm began preparation of a draft of a Japanese patent application. During this time, development and testing of the subject matter disclosed and claimed in the above-identified US patent application was being performed and I jointly supplied further information, along with the co-inventors, for preparation of a Japanese patent application.

8. After completion of the draft of the patent application, the patent firm provided the draft to me and the other co-inventors for review and comments. I jointly reviewed the draft and provided comments to the patent firm for revision of the application in accordance with results obtained to date from the development and testing, and correcting inaccuracies and/or misunderstandings. At least two drafts were prepared and revised in accordance with comments provided by me, before the application was filed in the Japanese patent office.

9. Attached hereto as Exhibit C, is a copy of the Japanese application from which the above-identified US application claims priority. Attached hereto as Exhibit D, is a translation of the Japanese application into English, of the application as originally filed with the Japanese Patent Office in Japanese.

10. All statements made herein of my own knowledge are true, and all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true, and further these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like are punishable by fine and/or imprisonment under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing therefrom.

July 7, 2003	Signature: <i>Konji Suzuki</i>	Göppingen Germany
Date	Kenji Suzuki	Residence

Attachments (copies):

*Exhibit A, Communication to Patent Firm;*  
*Exhibit B, Translation of Communication;*  
*Exhibit C, Copy of Priority Document; and*  
*Exhibit D, Translation of Priority Document*



**IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

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3. I am employed by Yamazaki Mazak Kabushiki Kaisha, hereinafter "Mazak," a corporation organized under the laws of Japan, having a principal place of business at 1, Aza-Norifune, Ohaza-Oguchi, Ohguchi-cho, Niwa-gun, Aichi-ken 480-0197 Japan.
3. At Mazak, I was jointly working on the development of an apparatus and method for aiding programming, particularly numerically controlled machine tools.
4. Within the normal scope of my duties at Mazak, I jointly invented the subject matter disclosed and claimed in the above-identified US patent application.
5. I jointly conceived of the subject matter disclosed and claimed in the

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9. Attached hereto as Exhibit C, is a copy of the Japanese application from which the above-identified US application claims priority. Attached hereto as Exhibit D, is a translation of the Japanese application into English, of the application as originally filed with the Japanese Patent Office in Japanese.

10. All statements made herein of my own knowledge are true, and all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true, and further these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like are punishable by fine and/or imprisonment under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing therefrom.

July 8, 2003	Signature: <i>Toshiyuki Muraki</i>	Nagoya-shi, Japan
Date	Toshiyuki Muraki	Residence
July 8, 2003	Signature: <i>Makoto Tanahashi</i>	Aichi-ken, Japan
Date	Makoto Tanahashi	Residence
July 8, 2003	Signature: <i>Hirokazu Yoshida</i>	Ogaki-shi, Japan
Date	Hirokazu Yoshida	Residence

*Attachments (copies):*

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